

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 7 and 12-17 are pending in this application. Claim 7 is the only independent claim. By this Amendment, Claims 7, 16 and 17 are amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 7 can be found, for example, in Fig. 3 and page 21, line 16 to page 22, line 11 of the specification. No new matter is added.

The Official Action rejects Claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 16 and 17 are amended to obviate the rejection. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects independent Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,993,593 to Swartz et al. ("Swartz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,044,628 to Katayama et al. ("Katayama").

Independent Claim 7 recites a process of producing a web-form laminated material used for packaging containers. The process includes, *inter alia*, sealing the trailing end of a web-form support layer to the leading end of a second web-form support layer by carrying out sealing of a conductive layer thereby forming a longer web-form support layer.

Swartz discloses a method and apparatus for manufacturing high temperature heat seals, such as those made between films manufactured from high-temperature thermoplastic resins. The apparatus includes two floating sheets or tapes of high-temperature release material 42 and 42' secured to support elements 44 and 44', respectively, as shown in Fig. 2 of Swartz. A workpiece 12 to be sealed is disposed between the two floating sheets or tapes of high-temperature release material 42

and 42'. Accordingly, Swartz is concerned simply with sealing a workpiece 12 between the two floating sheets of release material 42, 42'. Swartz does not disclose sealing the trailing end of a web-form support layer to the leading end of a second web-form support layer to form a longer web-form support layer. Katayama simply discloses longitudinally sealing a plate-like web into a tubular form (see Fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 19-21 and 27-38 of Katayama), and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Swartz.

Thus, the combination of Swartz and Katayama does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, the combination of aspects recited in independent Claim 7, including sealing the trailing end of a web-form support layer to the leading end of a second web-form support layer by carrying out sealing of a conductive layer thereby forming a longer web-form support layer. Therefore, independent Claim 7 is patentable over the combination of Swartz and Katayama for at least these reasons.

Claims 12-17 are patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of their dependence from patentable independent Claim 7. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in these dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

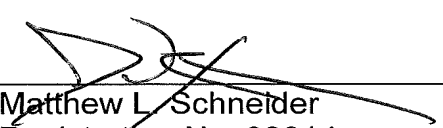
Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 20, 2009

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Matthew L. Schneider  
Registration No. 32814

David R. Kemeny  
Registration No. 57241

**Customer No. 21839**  
703 836 6620